## **Claims**

- [c1] A sidewall coring tool, comprising:
  - a tool body;
  - a hollow coring shaft extendable from the tool body;
  - a formation cutter disposed at a distal end of the hollow coring shaft; and
  - a retention member defining one of a plurality of petals, an aperture and combinations thereof, the retention member disposed in the hollow coring shaft.
- [c2] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, further comprising an internal sleeve disposed inside the hollow coring shaft, and wherein the retention member is connected to the internal sleeve.
- [c3] The sidewall coring tool of claim 2, wherein the retention member is disposed proximate a distal end of the internal sleeve.
- [c4] The sidewall coring tool of claim 2, wherein the internal sleeve comprises a non-rotating sleeve.
- [c5] The sidewall coring tool of claim 2, wherein the internal sleeve comprises a radial notch such that the petals of the retention member can be positioned radially outward

into the notch.

- [c6] The sidewall coring tool of claim 5, wherein the retention member has a petal circumference that is substantially the same as an inner diameter of the internal sleeve.
- [c7] The sidewall coring tool of claim 2, further comprising a piston disposed inside the internal sleeve and axially moveable with respect to the internal sleeve.
- [08] The sidewall coring tool of claim 2, further comprising a check valve disposed in the internal sleeve.
- [09] The sidewall coring tool of claim 8, wherein the check valve is disposed in a proximal end of the internal sleeve.
- [c10] The sidewall coring tool of claim 9, wherein the check valve enables a fluid to flow out of the internal sleeve.
- [c11] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein an inner diameter of the internal sleeve is substantially the same as an inner diameter of the formation cutter.
- [c12] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein an inner diameter of the internal sleeve is larger than an inner diameter of the formation cutter.
- [c13] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the internal sleeve comprises a bladder configured to apply radial

- pressure to a core sample when the bladder is selectively filled with a fluid.
- [c14] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the plurality of petals comprises 3 petals.
- [c15] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the plurality of petals overlap.
- [c16] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the plurality of petals are separated by gaps.
- [c17] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the retention member comprises perforations.
- [c18] The sidewall coring tool of claim 17, wherein the perforations are circumferential perforations disposed outside a petal circumference.
- [c19] The sidewall coring tool of claim 17, wherein the perforations are radial perforations disposed at least partially inside a petal circumference.
- [c20] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the plurality of petals are adjacent.
- [c21] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the retention member is constructed of rubber.
- [c22] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the retention

- member is rounded and extrudes towards a distal end of hollow coring shaft.
- [c23] The sidewall coring tool of claim 1, wherein the retention member is rounded and extrudes towards a proximal end of the hollow coring shaft.
- [c24] A method for taking a core sample, comprising:
  extending a coring bit into a formation, the coring bit
  having a retention member segmented into a plurality of
  petals;
  receiving the core sample in the coring bit; and
  retaining the core sample in the coring bit with the retention member while withdrawing the coring bit from
- [c25] The method of claim 24, further comprising selectively filling a bladder with a fluid to apply a radial pressure to the core sample.

the formation.

- [c26] The method of claim 24, wherein the retention member is connected to an internal sleeve disposed in the coring bit and the core sample is received in the internal sleeve.
- [c27] A sidewall coring tool, comprising:

  a tool body;

  a hollow coring shaft extendable from the tool body;

  a formation cutter disposed at a distal end of the hollow

coring shaft;

an internal sleeve disposed inside the hollow coring shaft; and

at least one retention mechanism selected from the group consisting of a piston and a check valve, wherein the piston is disposed in the internal sleeve and moveable with respect to the internal sleeve, and the check valve is disposed in the internal sleeve.

- [c28] The sidewall coring tool of claim 27, wherein the at least one retention mechanism is the piston.
- [c29] The sidewall coring tool of claim 28, further comprising a seal disposed between the piston and the internal sleeve.
- [c30] The sidewall coring tool of claim 28, wherein an inner diameter of the internal sleeve is substantially the same as an inner diameter of the formation cutter.
- [c31] The sidewall coring tool of claim 28, further comprising a check valve operatively connected to the internal sleeve.
- [c32] The sidewall coring tool of claim 27, further comprising a retention member segmented into petals disposed proximate an opening at a distal end of the internal sleeve.

- [c33] A method for taking a core sample, comprising:
  extending a coring bit into a formation;
  receiving the core sample in an internal sleeve having a
  piston disposed therein such that the piston is moveable
  with respect to the internal sleeve; and
  withdrawing the coring bit from the formation.
- [c34] The method of claim 33, further comprising selectively filling a bladder with a fluid to apply a radial pressure to the core sample.